

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

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"The Revolt of Islam"

(Editor, "International Socialist").

I picked up my favorite poet the other day, and turned at once to a beautiful passage in Shelley's "Revolt of Islam," where the "wondrous lady," as the youth of the slave ship called her, Cynthia, speaks of the slave traders after they had rescued her from the cavern where she was imprisoned, when it had been destroyed by an earthquake. It will show how ideas are in the air before they were forged into a philosophy. Neither Marx nor Engels were born when the "Revolt" was written. Is it any wonder that the ancient Jews called their poets prophets? The writer was Percy B. Shelley, and scarcely more than a boy, the son of a baronet, reared in luxury, having no economic affinity with the working-class. He is above all other poets, the poet of the working-class. Would that the Fates could see fit to send us another at this time, or a woman like his "Cynthia." Most revolutionists are already acquainted with "The Masque of Anarchy," "Prometheus Unbound," and "Men of England."

The following is the verses spoken of—
GEO. G. REEVE.

FROM THE "REVOLT OF ISLAM."

The captain of the ship fears Cynthia, whose
glowing arms and thick tress
Of soft hair, which bent with gathered weight
My neck near hers, her dark and deepening
eyes,
Which, as twin phantoms of one star that
lies,
O'er a dim well, moves, though the star re-
poses,
Swam in our mute and liquid ecstasies.
Her marble brow, and eager lips, like roses,
With their own fragrance pale, which spring
but half encloses."

He thinks she is a "wicked ghost!"
The pilot reassures him:
"It cannot be—she is a human maid—
Her low voice makes you weep—she is some
bride,
Or daughter of high birth—she can be naught
beside."

Then she herself tells us:
" . . . in the gleam
Of the pale moon I stood as one whom fear
May not assail, and very calm voice did
rear."

And then comes that magnificent speech,
during which she says:

But children near their parents tremble now,
Because they must obey—one rules another.
And as one Power rules high and low,
So man is made the captive of his brother.
And Hate is throned on high with Fear, his
mother.

Above the highest—and those mountain-cells
Whence Love yet flowed when Faith had
choked all other,
Are darkened—Woman as a bond slave,
dwells
Of man, a slave, and life is poisoned in its
wells.

Man seeks for gold in mines, that he may
weave

A lasting chain for his own slavery—
In fear and restless care that he may live,
He toils for others, who must ever be
The joyless thralls of like captivity.
He murders, for his chief delight is in ruin;
He builds the altar, that its idol's fee
May be his very blood; he is pursuing
O blind and evil wretch! his own obscure un-
doing.

Woman—she is his slave, she has become
A thing I weep to speak—the child of scorn,
The outcast of a desolated home;
Falsehood and fear, and toil, like waves, have
worn

Channels upon her cheek, which smiles adorn,
As calm decks the false ocean—well ye know
What woman is, for none of women born
Can choose but drain the bitter dregs of woe
Which ever from the oppressed to the opres-
sors flow.

This need not be: ye might arise, and will
That gold should lose its power and thrones
their glory!

BETRAYED.

Craft Unions Sold Again by their "Dangerous Leaders"

By RAY EVRITT.

The strike is about over, and whilst this paper has refrained from criticising the actions of the Stars of the Trades Hall up to the present, the time has now come when criticism is necessary. It is only by frankly reviewing and criticising their actions that the working class can hope to make progress.

The strike was called over the introduction of the card system into the Government works. That the system was brought in with the express purpose of speeding up the slaves employed, is beyond dispute; to prove this we have only to take into consideration the following facts:—(1) Mr. Beeby stated that the Government would save a certain amount by its introduction; (2) Some 200 or 300 individuals were taken from the ranks of those working and placed in the parasitical position of sub-foremen; these would receive a higher wage as foremen, than they did as craftsmen. Now to replace the output previously produced by these new parasites and to produce sufficient to cover the cost of these drones, also to make sure of that saving that Mr. Beeby spoke about, it is necessary that these who remain actual productive units be speeded up.

The strike took place at a time when all who understand the position of a wage earner, could entertain no hopes of success. It commenced during a period of unemployment; through out the Commonwealth large unemployed demonstrations were being held. Many who took a leading part in it had to cease their agitation for the unemployed. Under these conditions no one who realises the fact that the wage slave has to sell his only commodity, labor power, in order to live, and that competition among the sellers of this commodity tend to produce worse conditions for labor instead of better, could expect anything other than what has happened.

From the first those who claimed to have the strike in hand, balked and hesitated. They chose the straightout strike as the weapon to be used; they pitted the stomachs of the workers against the paunch of the master class, with the inevitable results.

A strike of this nature must be of short duration; the conditions of the labor market,

etc., must be such that it is possible for organized labor to create by striking a state of affairs that will force the employers to give in. The sooner the strike reaches its highest development the better, for the longer they are out, the weaker the workers become, both financially and morally. The Defence Committee, aiming at a general strike, did all that it could to prevent it; union after union had to come out on its own initiative. It was good material damned from the beginning.

This uncertainty of action sprang from the fact that trouble affected, an industry, and despite the fact that solidarity was shown in coming out, concerted action on many points that would have ensured a better fight was lost amidst the battle of voices arising from the divided craft unionist.

After having failed to accomplish that which they did not have the courage to do—bring about a general tie up—the "Stars" reverted back to the craft position, claiming that it was a mistake to bring out other unions than the skilled mechanics affected. They failed to realize the fault lies in this respect in the form of organization. They failed to realize the one great lesson of this strike to wit:—**THE CRAFT FORM OF ORGANISATION IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH AN INDUSTRIAL FIGHT; that the form of organisation necessary to carry on such a fight is, REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.** Their actions remind one of a village idiot trying to fire shrapnel with a score of toy pistols.

The Defence Committee, after making blunder after blunder, after a lot of bombast and hot air, after having done everything other than give the true position to the men on strike, place in record one of the most diabolical betrayals ever suffered by the working-class of Australia.

There was no reason for this betrayal, and never has there been one so obvious and shameless as this.

After having carried the fight on for five weeks, the Defence Committee turn round and accept conditions that are far worse than those prevailing previous to the strike being declared. If these are acceptable now, then

there was not any reason for ending the men out.

Their contemptible action does not lead with accepting terms of settlement.

After backing down completely they did not work to definitely break the back of the strike. The engineers were advised by all as far to go back to work, and members of the Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Union Association in the country moved back the formed that the strike was off. This action was taken by the "Dangerous Leaders" before the membership had the chance to express their opinion. This contemptible move, despite the fact that a large number of them have kicked against being sold, brought about that which the master class prices have been endeavoring to do since the strike commenced—a definite split in the ranks of the workers.

How well the master class realise how valuable these cringing spineless creatures are to them is seen by the altered tone of their press towards them. But yesterday they were "revolutionists, red ragers, disloyalists, trait-leaders, etc." today they are welcomed as prodigal sons and the press hopes that the hopes of the union leaders are realised.

Along with these despicable creatures can be placed many who claim to understand the position. The attitude of some of these latter is hard to understand. We can understand L. Jones, Secretary of the Social Democratic League, stating that they should go back, when we take into consideration the latter part of his activities in this party.

This strike should at least show the working class the utter futility of relying upon leaders and bring into being more initiative on the part of the rank and file, for as De Leon stated: "As the Plebs Leader of old was a strategic post of peculiar strength for the patriciate and of mischief for the proletarian, so and for like reasons as the Labor leader of to-day nothing but a tracked battery, from behind which the Capitalist Class can encompass what it could not without the work of enslaving and slowly degrading the working class, and, along with that, the work of debasing and ruining the country."

THE CALL OF REVOLT. (J. W. ROCHE).

A clarion call from shore to shore,
Rings o'er the dark blue surging sea.
A ringing call for you and me,
"Arise, and be ye slaves no more."

"The tyrant's hand with ruthless grasp,
Has held your throat from age to age.
You've shrunk beneath his hellish rage,
As for your blood he glow'ed again."

"He made the smiling earth a hell,
With cunning art he forged the chain
That fetters heart and hand and brain,
And Fraud and Hatred served him well."

"But now he quakes with craven leer,
His crimes have risen to the skies,
The sun has pierced his cloak of lies,

That love, which none may bind, be free to fill
The world like light, and evil faith, grown hoary
With crime, be quenched and die—Yon promontory
Even now eclipses the descending moon—
Dungeons and palaces are transitory,
High temples fade like vapor—man alone
Remains whose will have power when all be-
side is gone."

STRIKERS STRUCK.

Serious as the strike was, it was not without its humorous aspects. If, as the Reform Politicians had so often stated, and as 90 per cent. of the workers firmly believed, they were our railways, the situation was surely Gilbertian in the extreme, for the position resolved itself into this:—The workers were on strike, because they as owners of the railways, had attempted to introduce upon themselves, as workers on the railway, a card system which they objected to, and which they were so op-

And filled his demon's heart with fear.

"The time has come to strike the blow,
To tear the Tyrant from his throne,
To make a mighty world your own,
From Tropic seas to Arctic snow."

The call is ringing round the earth,
Ringing through the murmuring trees,
And flying swiftly on the breezes,
A Brighter Age travails in Birth

Then, listen to the clarion call,
That rings across the rippling sea,
That tells of wondrous things to be,
When Freedom's Flag floats over all.

posed to as to remain on strike until they as owners, decided to withdraw the card which they as workers disliked. If it has done nothing else, it has at least shown the workers that Government ownership does not mean ownership by the workers. Surely, never before has the lesson been so clearly portrayed that whilst Capitalism exists the Government is merely the Executive Committee of the Capitalist Class, and whatever industries are owned and controlled by the Government, they are only so held in trust for and on behalf of the Capitalist Class. Regarded in this light, the true Capitalistic nature of the Labor Party's platform may be seen in proper perspective.

The only working class paper is a Socialist paper. The "International Socialist" is admittedly one of the best.

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Gander

A FEW CONTRASTS.

C.F.C.

Some time ago a Royal Commission was appointed by the New South Wales Government, to inquire into the reasonableness or otherwise, of a proposed increase in the fares of the Sydney Ferry Company. This Ferry Company, which controls services to different places, enjoys a monopoly of the right to supply a "public necessity," and it enjoys this monopoly by reason of the fact that it holds Government leases of the wharves at which the Government trams and trains empty passengers.

The Royal Commissioner—a big accountant who audits the books of big capitalist concerns—in the course of his examination, disallowed many questions concerning the employment and valuation of the company's assets; disallowed an examination into the profits and losses of each individual run or service—"accounts for which the company could not be expected to keep separately"; in fact, conducted the inquiry in a strictly impartial manner. Need we add that the proposed increases were recommended, and that a "card system" to be applied on the MANAGEMENT was not even suggested.

To adverse criticism concerning the result of the inquiry, and the form of the "inquiry" itself, Acting-Premier Fuller replied that the Government had approved of the increased fares. The "Daily Telegraph" reports him thus:—"He believed that the company was in the same position as other companies in New South Wales, which were at liberty to vary their fares as they saw fit."

Examine this statement from another angle. Suppose following on Fuller's lead, a section or two of the working class decided to vary the prices of their service as they saw fit; decided to vary the price of their commodity, labor power: in other words decided to go for a rise in wages. What then? THAT would be different, my friend. THAT would be "not a strike, but a rebellion instigated by gold from the paw of the Teuton."

Suppose further, that, following the lead given in the above inquiry, they, the wage-earners, instead of going to a Wages Board lawyer—a member of the capitalist class—they got as adjudicator a person who depended for HIS living on the auditing of THEIR union books. The resulting howl would be heard at Melbourne.

In connection with the increased ferry fares, another aspect is worth considering. When the representatives of the ferry shareholders were after their increase were they treated, questioned, and cross-examined on THEIR cost of living as are the wage-earners appearing before a Wages Board? Were such vital

The Ideal of Socialism.

By J. M. G.

The ideal of a form of society giving that assurance of life to every individual unit is one that is not an impossible dream as many of the apologists for the present system maintain, but an ideal that is based on the development of the economic forces operating in the present and those that have operated in past societies. This ideal, having as its basis the economic structure of society, we hold in opposition to the opinion of those that assert that our civilisation will not and cannot be radically changed, that before doing so human nature will have to be changed, and many other platitudes trotted out by these supporters of the present system who hold these views in the teeth of the evidence of all past history.

To Karl Marx we owe the theories that have placed Socialism on a scientific basis and lifted it from the Utopianism that necessarily pervaded the writings previous to his time. His analysis laid bare and revealed in clear vision that all past history was a history of class struggles, of antagonism between those in possession of the means by which the physical life of humanity is sustained, and those dispossessed by those means, thus compelled to live in subjection as slaves, serfs or wage slaves.

He traced capitalistic exploitation to its source in surplus value. He showed Socialism to be inevitable, proletarian, aggressive and international. His analysis eliminated the personal factor, and freed Socialism from the fantastic and speculative. He pointed out the inevitable downfall of present society, to be followed by a form of society without class distinction, having as its basis the economic quality of every unit. He made Socialism proletarian, pointing out that it was the historic role of the workers to transform present society and take control in the interests of the community as a whole. He revealed the aggressive nature of the fight against capitalism by pointing out that the community were heirs to all the past, the accumulated knowledge and economic inventions of past generations, which they should take as their own and enjoy collectively. He pointed out the international character of the movement, declaring that the real division should no longer exist between nation and nation, but between class and class, between international capital and international labour, his rallying cry being "workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains."

The success that has been attained by

questions as "Is a newspaper a necessity?" or "Do shareholders eat meat often?" or "Has the cost of living advanced 33 per cent. or 29.8 per cent. since the last award?"—Were such questions as these argued for days? Dicken! That sort of inquisition is applied only to the only necessary class in the community.

It is often said that now the Necessary Commodities Commission is "fixing" the prices of commodities handled by ordinary companies, these companies are in the same position, as regards the raising or lowering of prices, as is the wage-earner, the price of whose commodity Labor Power is "fixed" by the Arbitration Court. This is not so. The price of practically every commodity which is under the "control" of the Necessary Commodities Commission has been elevated time after time. This is so because the supply of that commodity can be controlled by the real price fixers. What secrets the cold storage appliances could tell in this connection? Labor Power, a strictly perishable commodity, on the contrary, cannot be kept on ice: it cannot be withheld from the glutted labor market.

Another illustration of the treatment meted out to the two different sections in society, is afforded by the new taxation proposals. Men eligible for war service, who for various reasons dislike being made targets for flying iron foundries are to be "encouraged" by a war tax of 10 per cent. on eligibles' incomes. This taxation, according to the plute press, is fine and dandy.

But when the War Time Profit Tax was mooted, the howl of horror that arose from the capitalists and their press barrackers caused the Federal Treasurer to blanch. It is rumored that in his

Socialist propaganda has been to a large extent if not wholly the result of the economic development in the productive forces of the latter portion of the past century. The working class as a result of this development have gradually been drawn together into large workshops, factories and centres of distribution, shut out from control of the tools of production, which have become more scientific and costly, herded together for the production of commodities of social use for industrial profit, it has engendered the spirit of discontent that in many individual cases has led to them becoming Socialists as the only hope of freeing themselves from the degrading and enslaving conditions of modern capitalism.

The futile attempts to reform society have been made clear by Marx's analysis. Applying his methods, we find to-day we cannot free ourselves from the enslaving conditions imposed by the system of capitalistic production, without a revolution that must change the form of society, a revolution that will place the tools of production of everything necessary for the welfare of the community, thereby abolishing production for profit, and establishing production for use.

The economic form of the Socialist Commonwealth will give rise to an ideology which we to-day, befogged by the brutalising conditions of our environment can have no conception, no more than the writers and philosophers of the Eighteenth Century could foresee the form of society that came after them in the Nineteenth Century. Marx, in refusing to write "the kitchen recipes of the future," showed his sound judgment, and his remark should be remembered by those who want a plan with all details of the future society.

The germ of the new phase of society is developing, since this war begun, with increased rapidity, and it behoves the workers to take stock of their surroundings, and have a consciousness of the trend of the economic form of society, and by doing so free themselves from the mental kinks of ignorance that have allowed them to be led into all the by-paths of reform and amelioration by glib orators and office seeking craft union misleaders and political mountebanks. Let them awake to the knowledge that just as other phases of society have come and gone, so our present form must pass away and give place to another.

hurry to withdraw the bill he fainted. Sir John Forrest, the new Federal Treasurer, re-introduced the emasculated bill a few days ago. Another howl of dismay from the same papers greeted the decrepit thing, and the Chambers of Commerce and the Employers' Federation denounced the bill as calculated to "drive capital out of the country, penalise industry and destroy incentive." Immediately the capitalist parliamentary hacks got busy again, and with the further aid of the knife the bill was last heard of bleeding to death. Strange, ain't it?

Forrest, by the way (as a "Worker" scribe pointed out in last week's issue), used the same argument in favour of the operation of his bill as did the Railway Commissioners in the case of the "cards" in the N.S.W. strike. He wanted the capitalist section to give the tax a trial, just as the Commissioners had wanted a trial for the objectionable "cards." But whereas the Commissioners' determination to try the "cards" on the workers was applauded by the capitalist sheets as "eminently fair," yet Forrest's suggestion that his tax cards be given a trial by the plutes was denounced by the same sheets as "utterly absurd!"

The receipt of a copy of this paper is an invitation to become a subscriber.

The final step, whether peaceful or violent, which interchanges the relations between ruling and subject class, is the inauguration of a new stage. This step, however, cannot take place until economic conditions are ripe for it.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

The Price of Progress

By Frederic Harrison, In "The Choice of Books."

Steam and factories, telegraphs, posts, railways, gas, coal and iron, suddenly discharged upon a country as if by a deluge, have their own evils that they bring in their train. To cover whole counties with squalid buildings, to pile up one hundred thousand factory chimneys vomiting soot, to fill the air with poisonous vapours till every leaf within ten miles is withered, to choke up rivers with putrid refuse, to turn tracks as big and once as lovely as the new forest into arid, noisome wastes; cinder-heaps, cesspools, coal-dust, and rubbish—rubbish, coal-dust, cesspools and cinder-heaps and overhead by day and by night a murky pall of smoke—all this is not an heroic achievement, if this black country is only to serve as a prison yard or work-house yard for the men, women, and children who dwell there.

To bury Middlesex and Surrey under miles of flimsy houses, crowd into them millions and millions of overworked, underfed, half-taught, and often squalid men and women; to be closed up in a labyrinth of dull, sooty, unwholesome streets; to leave hundreds and thousands confined there, with gin, and bad air, and hard work, and low wages, breeding contagious diseases, and sinking into despair of soul and feeble condition of body; and then to sing psalms and shout, because the ground shakes and the air is shrill with the roar of infinite engines and machines, because the blank streets are lit up with garish gas-lamps and more garish electric lamps, and the post office carries billions of letters, and the railways every day carry one hundred thousand persons in and out of the huge factory we call the greatest metropolis of the civilised world—this is surely not the last word in civilisation.

Something like a million of paupers are kept year by year from absolute starvation by doles; at least another million of poor people are on the border line, flitting between starvation and health, between pauperism and independence; not one, but two, or three, or four millions of people in these islands are struggling on the minimum pittance of human comfort and the maximum of human labour; something like twenty millions are raised each year by taxation of intoxicating liquors; something like one hundred thousand deaths each year of disease distinctly preventable by care and sufficient food, and sanitary precaution and due self-restraint; infants dying off from want of good nursing, like flies; families herded together like swine, eating, drinking, sleeping, fighting, dying, in the same close and foul den; the kicking to death of wives, the strangling of babies, the drunkenness, the starvation, the mendicancy, the prostitution, the thieving, the cheating, the pollution of our vast cities in masses, waves of misery and vice, chaos and neglect—all this counted, not here and there in spots and sores (as such things on human society always will be), but in areas larger than the entire London of Elizabeth, masses of population equal to the entire English people of her age. I will sum it up in words not my own, but written the other day by one of our best and most acute living teachers, who says, "Our present type of society is in many respects one of the most horrible that has ever existed in the world's history—boundless luxury and self-indulgence at one end of the scale, and at the other a condition of life as cruel as that of a Roman slave, and more degraded than that of a South Sea Islander." Such is another refrain to the cantata of the nineteenth century, and its magnificent achievements in industry, science, and art.

What is the good of carrying millions of people through the bowels of the earth, and at fifty miles an hour, if millions of working people are forced to live in dreary, bleak suburbs, miles and miles away from all freshness of the country, and away miles and miles even from the life and intelligence of cities?

What is the good of ships like moving towns, that cross the Atlantic in a week, and are as gorgeous within as palaces, if they sweep millions of our poor, who find nothing but starvation at home? What is the use of electric lamps, and telephones, and telegraphs, newspapers by millions, letters by billions, if seamstresses stitching their fingers to the bone can hardly earn fourpence by making a shirt, and many a man and woman is glad of a shilling for twelve hours' work? What

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"It is understood that General Korniloff considered that he was bound to tell the country the truth about the army, which the Premier and his colleagues had not disclosed.

"Opinion has now become distinctly unfavorable to Kerensky. The idol is seen to have clay feet. He lost his charm when he failed to speak the whole truth."

No, this is not a clipping from the "I.S." but from that beacon of light, the "Sydney Sun." Perhaps you, fellow-reader, can remember the pitiful tripe of a few weeks back, about the "saviour of Russia," "the great, strong man"? But now the "idol has feet of clay." Why? Because he is no longer performing the work of his masters, the capitalists. He is not handing out the sleeping draughts to the workers that he was expected to hand out. "He has failed to speak the whole truth." Fancy any capitalistic paper blaming a man for that. Still! Away with Kerensky: a more pliant tool is required. What about Fuller or Beeby?

We read again: "General Korniloff in the midst of cheering crowds and flower-throwing women, went to the Siberian Chapel and prayed before the miraculous ikon of the Virgin. Russia's hope of the future lies in Korniloff and his friends."

Look at the qualifications necessary for a leader. Look at our hopes.

"DIRECT ACTION."

Away with the ballot mix," many of our industrial friends cry. "We only need to organise on the industrial field, and the victory is ours."

What a beautiful theory, but how beautifully illusory. As long as there is a machine in existence for directing the affairs of a State, there is a possibility of that machine operating against labor organised along industrial lines only. That this is true, the present industrial upheaval amply verifies.

No matter how strongly organised the workers may be, we must remember that there are many in the unions and outside them who are willing to act as traitors to their class. We have those, to put it mildly, misguided people, continually with us. One has but to visit any of the volunteer labor depots to see this. Men, wage slaves like the rest, and women—mothers, wives or sisters of wage slaves—are perfectly willing, nay, anxious even, to step in and take the places of those who are up against the forces of tyranny.

There is only one way of preventing this and this is by controlling the machine of the State. If those misguided people cannot be educated up to a knowledge of their position, then we must be in such a position that their traitorous tendencies have no field for operation. If we cannot depend upon them to resist temptation, we must keep temptation out of their way. In this way their natural failings will perish of atrophy.

The present turmoil should teach unionists several lessons, the principles being that political and industrial organisation and action are complementary. There must be a general tightening up of the unions into one big union, and we must also obtain control of the political machine, until such time as it is rendered useless by the industrial council of the future.

CYGNUS.

do we all gain if in covering our land with factories and steam engines we are covering it also with want and wretchedness? And if we can make a shirt for a penny and a coat for sixpence, and bring bread from every market on the planet, what do we gain if they who make the coat and the shirt lead the lives of galley slaves, and eat their bread in tears and despair, disease and filth.

We are all in the habit of measuring success by PRODUCTS whilst the point is, how are the products consumed, and by whom, and what sort of lives are passed by the producers? So far as mechanical improvements pour more wealth into the lap of the wealthy, more luxury into the lives of the luxurious, and give a fresh turn to the screw which presses on the lives of the poor; so far as our inventions double and treble the power of the rich, and double and treble the helplessness of the poor, giving to him that hath, and taking from him that hath not even that which he has. So far these great material appliances of life tend to lower civilisation, retard it, distort and deprave it. And they DO this, so far as we spend the most of our time in extending and enjoying these appliances, and very little time in preparing for the new conditions of life they impose on us, and in remedying the horrors that they bring in their

The Scarlet Plague.

By W. J. T.

Of the many problems confronting society to-day there is one that stands in unapproachable isolation by virtue of its far-reaching and disastrous effect on human existence. This great social evil is Prostitution, with its concomitant, Venereal Diseases. It is a cancerous sore, whose fetid growth is eating deeper and deeper into the hearts of modern civilisation, casting a withering blight on life and befouling all it comes in contact with.

It has done, and will continue to defy the efforts of reformers to eradicate it. Politicians pass laws, preachers enter on an "offensive of prayer," while the public at large look on, and with a smirk of puritanical hypocrisy lighting their visage, call it a "necessary evil." Like capitalism, it is a necessary evil until such times as the workers decide that evils are unnecessary. It sweeps these puerile excuses and puny efforts, and gathers an ever-increasing army of victims with relentless surety.

Venereal Diseases are prevalent in Australia to such marked degree that two commissions were recently appointed to fully investigate the extent of these diseases and their consequence. Syphilis is the only disease that can be passed directly from an affected parent to an unborn child, and it is this peculiar hereditary trait that such awful damage is done to innocent child-life.

Prof. Walsh, of the Sydney University, states the following:

There are only two venereal diseases of importance—syphilis and gonorrhoea—but they are responsible directly or indirectly for greater incapacity, greater suffering, and greater loss of life, actual and potential, than any other two infectious diseases. Nevertheless, there is no real difference between them and other infective processes, such as smallpox or epidemic meningitis. They, too, are caused by microbes invading the body, and they are transmitted from one person to another only when the microbes are transmitted. Further, the microbes of syphilis and of gonorrhoea are among the best known to medical science. They can be freely handled and examined in the laboratory. Their ravages have been studied in great detail. Highly technical and very exact methods of diagnosis have been worked out for every stage of syphilis. In gonorrhoea early recognition is easy, but later diagnosis is difficult. Syphilis can now be treated with remarkable success, owing to the discovery of a drug which has a powerful germicidal action on the microbes within the human body. Gonorrhoea in its incipient stage may be treated with good results, but where prompt and proper measures have not been carried out it may prove one of the most intractable of diseases.

The immediate effects of acquired syphilis are inconsiderable compared with its later developments. But year after year the microbes goes on, compiling a catalogue of "damaged goods," whose ultimate dimensions are most formidable. There is not an organ or tissue of the body that is not liable to be invaded and colonised by the microbes. Untreated or improperly treated cases remain highly infectious for years, and virulent germs may be transferred to healthy persons through the medium of a cup or a kiss, or by other innocent intercourse.

Before and after birth inherited syphilis is much more serious than the acquired form, since the microbe is attacking tissues in process of development. Hence it is a frequent cause of ante-natal death. Otherwise the infant is born with the microbe already planted in its tissues, though it may appear healthy at birth. Within a few weeks or months, however, the tainted life begins to disclose the taint, and a veritable chamber of horrors is revealed. I shall not raise the curtain further than to quote two sentences from the final report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, London, 1916. "The child's growth is checked, its vitality depressed, its intelligence stunted." And again, "The central nervous system may be gravely affected, leading to . . . blindness, deafness, meningitis, idiocy, and various forms of paralysis."

A CONTRAST.

I speak to a healthy audience whose intelligence and attention are alert. I have seen as large a gathering of dehumanised derelicts, many of whom were the wreckage of syphilis, a pitiful and repulsive spectacle. Between these extremes of perfect health and utter idiocy there is a great army of the mentally defective. A proportion, larger in some, smaller in others, of their brain-cells remains undeveloped or perfectly damaged. What chances have these little ones of becoming good citizens. They are degraded from the race of

men. They represent a lower order of being—and they will act accordingly. That physical basis, which is the first condition of the expressions of our intellectuality and of our spirituality has been denied them from the start. That healthy brain, without which we cannot have an able mind or a high character, was never theirs. To complete the tragedy, they are condemned to pass on to their children, and their children's children, the same defective brain. Not every case of mental deficiency is due to syphilis, though syphilis is probably the most important contributory cause.

The ante-natal damage that may be done by congenital syphilis is illustrated in the most startling manner by some family histories quoted by the Royal Commission. "In the case of 34 syphilitic mothers, Dr. Mott found that 175 pregnancies resulted in only 30 apparently healthy children, leaving 144 premature births, stillbirths or death in infancy, and 41 seriously diseased offspring. Of the apparently healthy children it is possible that some may show the effects of congenital disease later."

Gonorrhoea is much more prevalent than syphilis. The majority of men infected, however, recover under treatment without noticeable ill effect. They are blind to the tragedy of the minority. Hence the infection is too often regarded as an accident which may be lightly dismissed from the mind. But the microbe is not thereby dismissed from the body. The surgeon knows its ravages and the long duration of its infectivity in men. But only those who have made a special study of the diseases of women, realise the vast damage to womanhood, the cruel fraud on motherhood, the massacre of the innocents, perpetrated by this microbe. The unhappy patient, of course, does not know to what her illness is due. In most cases even her husband has no suspicion, and he would be overwhelmed with remorse if he had. To do him justice, he never dreamt of danger. It is characteristic of this insidious disease that the obvious symptoms soon pass off, while the hidden infection may last for years. So a man may marry, all unconscious that he is still infested with the germs of a past disease—all unconscious that the wild oats which he sowed a few years before are waiting to yield a late crop in the form of an invalid wife and a desolate home.

The verdict of the Royal Commissioners is unmistakable. "The consequences of gonorrhoea in men are grave and far-reaching. The disease is a frequent cause of sterility, and a source of the greatest danger to the community at large. . . . It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of gonorrhoea in women. In the earlier stage it inflicts on her a serious ailment; subsequently it may cause sterility; and in later years it frequently leads to conditions which may necessitate grave and difficult operations, to chronic invalidism, and sometimes to death. . . . Both gonorrhoea and syphilis lead to an enormous annual loss of child life." They add this rider: "In view of the comparatively small importance, with which, until recently, the consequences of gonorrhoea have commonly been regarded, it is our duty to emphasise that the evidence given before us seems to establish that gonorrhoea, until it has been effectively treated, should be a hindrance to marriage. . . . As regards syphilis, the importance of preventing the marriage of any person who is in an infectious state is far more generally appreciated."

From these facts it would appear that, compared with syphilis, gonorrhoea is not less destructive, though it is more merciful to children. They are less often born diseased; they are more often not born at all; it does not kill. When the microbes of gonorrhoea has completed its work there is nothing left to kill. The last hope of motherhood has been destroyed.

It is true that the venereal diseases are the outstanding cause of children never being born, of children being killed before they are born, and of children being born diseased. Yet I must warn you that they are not the only cause of any of these events, and you will do a grave injustice to many innocent persons if you do not recognise that fact.

This address gives a slight idea of the awful ravages caused directly and indirectly by these diseases.

Giving evidence before the commission, Sir Chas. MacKellar states: "I have no doubt that a large proportion of the cases of idiocy, epilepsy, feeble mindedness in children, and infantile paralysis, are for the most part caused by hereditary syphilis, because of the infection of the father."

Dr. Halliday asserts that 30 per cent. of the blind children of N.S.W. are due to hereditary

Propaganda on the South Coast.

Taking advantage of the fact that owing to the existence of a strike, they were for the time being, denied the glorious privilege of toiling in the industrial bells of N.S.W., Comrades W. Gay, J. Cogan (who is down on a holiday from Broken Hill), and A. S. Reardon, last week paid a visit to the South Coast for the purpose of placing before the workers in that district, the aims and objects of the A.S.P.

Leaving Sydney on Wednesday morning in a buggy, with a good supply of literature on board, and with Com. Gay holding the "ribbons," the prospects of an enjoyable, as well as a successful, trip, were assured. To see Com. "Bill" Gay manipulating the "turn-out" was in itself a spectacle to excite wonder and admiration, for indeed "his driving is like unto the driving of Jehu, the son of Nimshi, for he driveth furiously." So moved, in fact, were many of the observers that one went so far as to inquire of "Bill" as to whether he fed his horse on bottles, to which our esteemed comrade replied in a most fitting and eloquent manner. Travelling through some of the finest scenery the State has to show, Corralma was eventually reached at night. Upon arrival it was found that a large crowd was anxiously awaiting the speakers, due to the efforts of several of the local rebels in advertising the meeting beforehand.

Comrade Reardon straightway proceeded to address them on the cause, development and effect of the present industrial upheaval, stressing the fact that when labor is solid, labor can win, but that the workers can only remain solid just so long as the walls of their stomach remain solid, and that any future action of the workers to be successful must be based upon the principle of taking and holding the industries by the workers. Instead of locking themselves out from them and making the struggle resolve itself into a contest between the purses of the master-class and the stomachs of the workers. The advantage was with the purses every time. The speaker was listened to with interest, and on concluding was accorded an enthusiastic round of applause. Despite the fact that many of the listeners had been hard hit of late by much industrial trouble, literature sales were good. Several of the rebels who had been responsible for the organising of the meeting, then did the good Samaritan act by providing the Comrades with food and shelter for the night, and they are hereby assured that it was highly appreciated. The

Continued on page 3.

syphilis. These calm facts do not touch the human side of the question, the suffering inflicted on innocent children by these diseases is heartrending, and it is only by actual contact with these children that we fully realise how dark and desolate life can be under such fell circumstances.

Dr. Bray (superintending the clinic for the treatment of venereal diseases in Prince Alfred Hospital), stated that from 20 to 25 children are treated every day at the clinic, and these under the age of 19 years. In six months 1329 adult cases were treated, 1099 men and 311 women, 350 being treated in one day and night.

In the Australian Medical Congress Report, 1908, Dr. Bennie says that fully 25 per cent. of the sick children of Melbourne were tainted and 19 per cent. of the total number were syphilitised.

The effects of this disease on the brain and nervous system is appalling. Sixty per cent. of the cases of tubercular meningitis is due to syphilis, while general paralysis of the insane is wholly due to it. Dr. Clubbe, giving evidence, stated that 500 children were treated in the Children's Hospital every year suffering from gonorrhoea.

"At the tenth session of the Australasian Medical Congress in Auckland, in 1914, a committee presented a report which affirmed that 'It is fairly certain that 12 to 15 per cent. of the population of London, Paris and Berlin are syphilitic, and, in addition, a much larger number are gonorrhoeic. There is good reason for thinking that Australian cities are affected much the same extent. There are no other diseases which cause so much loss to the community.'"

The spread of Venereal Diseases is due to promiscuous sex relations (apart from the factor of hereditary taint) carried on mainly through the medium of prostitution. With this in view, many futile efforts to curtail the spreading of disease have been made, such as the licensing and medical examination of prostitutes, but through the very nature of the case they failed dismally. Medical examination is worthless and licensed houses only add to the danger of infection.

PROPAGANDA ON THE SOUTH COAST.

Continued from page 3.

following day was spent in Wollongong, where a very successful meeting was held at night, and literature sales were again good. The speakers were Comrades Gay and Reardon, "Bill" getting in some good work with a trenchant criticism of the pseudo Labor Party. The next evening was at Thirroul on Friday morning, the audience being composed of the miners and railway men of the district. The remarks of the speakers were almost unanimously endorsed, and the sale of literature was the highest of the trip. Before proceeding to Woonona for the next meeting, a visit was paid to an old supporter of the movement, and a regular subscriber to the paper, "Gardener" Leeds, of Thirroul. Comrade Leeds has long passed the allotted three score and ten, but is still recognised as a powerful and vigorous opponent at the local debating club. He also possesses a good sense of humor, and the following incident, as told by him, is worthy of record:—"My father died in the Workhouse in 'Merrie England,' and together with several of my brothers I joined the Army. Eventually I became a first-class shot, so much so that when I was campaigning in Afghanistan I was picked out for duty as a sharp-shooter. One night I was told off to a post in the hills, and on the arrival of the relief party next morning a dozen or so Afghans lay dead in front of me. Ah! says the officer: did you shoot all these? Every one of 'em, says I. Then, says the officer Sergeant, give this man two extra biscuits."

Comrade Leeds makes no comment, save:—"They were damned dog biscuits"—nor is comment necessary.

We reluctantly said good-bye to our old comrade, and proceeded to Woonona. The militant "Andy" Lees had well advertised the meeting, with the result that a fine crowd gathered, and with "Andy" as chairman, the proceedings went with a swing, as also did the literature at the close. This was the final meeting of the trip, and early next morning a start was made for Sydney. Climbing to the top of the Bulli Pass, half an hour was spent in silently gazing at what must be admitted as one of the most beautiful vistas that nature has to offer. Standing in the midst of these surroundings, one can feast the eye, either upon the grandeur of the mountains, or turning to the right about, the ocean view, that "cradle endlessly rocking" presents itself for one's admiration. But from the Bulli Pass, one sees both mountain and sea, and the combination is one of noble and perfect beauty. And then "Bill" started to talk. "There," said he, pointing, "is the Mt. Kembla mine," and he spoke long and earnestly of the big disaster that had fearfully done to death many of the workers therein. "There, closer to us, is the Bulli mine, and that, too, has added to the long list of those who have been slain on the altar of the profit god." And amidst so much beauty, the horrors of the system of production for profit, profit at no matter what expense of working-class life, impresses one almost to pessimism, which, however turns to optimism on thinking of what one hears and sees in the mining towns on the South Coast. There, slowly but most vigorously is the class-consciousness of the workers coming to life. Socialism and industrial unionism are with hundreds of the young men of the district, the all important topics for discussion.

At Woonona they already have in progress a class for the study of Marxian economics, and another one opens this month at Corramal, whilst we were given to understand that one is contemplated at Coledale. These are in truth the things that give one greatly to hope that the day of the Revolution is not so far distant in the mists of time as to make it impossible of attainment in our day.

Arrangements have been made for a continuance of propaganda meeting on the South Coast as soon as things get back to normal.

The present trip was, from whatever standpoint it is looked at, an unqualified success. To travel a shade over a hundred miles by road, hold four big meetings and conduct a sale of literature, and do it all in four days, shows there's no need to introduce the card system of speeding up amongst some of the comrades.

This report must not be allowed to close without placing on record the thanks of the three comrades concerned as well as of headquarters, to all the rebels on the South Coast, who, by their action in advertising and organising the meetings, made the trip the success it was.

A. S. R.

"Come, then, cast off fooling,
And put by ease and rest,
For the Cause alone is worthy,
Till the good days bring the best."

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Central Executive.

The next meeting of the Central Executive will be held on Saturday, September 15th, at 2.30 p.m. All delegates are requested to attend.

A. S. REARDON, Gen. Sec.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

A crowd of 30 thousand on the Yarra Bank, Sunday, September 2nd, had for their instruction speakers from 8 or 10 platforms, all dealing with industrial revolt. These speakers, however, voiced the effects of the capitalist system, and not its causes or the means of bringing about its overthrow. A number of collectors took around boxes to gather in coin for wives and children of the many unionists on strike. A rough estimate given by the chairman of a Trades Hall meeting in the evening was £200 for the afternoon's Yarra Bank collection.

This branch's platform was occupied by Coms. P. Murphy (chair), Fred. Holland (who dealt with the anti-militarist question), and Phil Halfpenny, who gave a splendid address dealing with the class struggle and the One Big Union. He said that craft unions were out of date; he dealt with the causes of industrial slavery, and gave a big crowd of listeners gathered about the platform some much needed information about the W.I.L.U. Afterwards Comrade Halfpenny answered several questions, a pleasing indication that the crowd had amongst it those who seek to know why the wealth producers of the world do not own what they produce; and why in a year of plenty, thousands of the working class are paying famine prices for food, while others are on the verge of starvation.

"Insanity," was the title of Miss Pearl Grant's address at the hall on September 2nd. The subject has much point at the present time.

The writer of these notes on the same evening went to hear a Labor politician lecture on "Has the worker a soul?" After dealing with the Taylor system of speeding up, and showing its sinister and disastrous effects on the workers in America, the speaker's only suggested remedy for the salvation of the working class was—not the overthrow of capitalism, but high wages. To a Socialist, it was lamentable to hear the leader of the Labor Party in the State Parliament, sum up by declaring, "Just as you increase wages, you increase the happiness of the people. High wages mean better conditions, and better food. As wages go up, so will happiness increase, and the soul battered out of the workers will return, and their conditions be improved."

The only sensible thing said by the lecturer was that the working class have power to alter present conditions. Of this well paid politician and others of his tribe misrepresenting their class in capitalist Parliaments, one can only in disgust say with a writer in an ancient book of tribal legends, "These be thy gods, O Israel."

A social and dance was held on September 4th in aid of the Literature Fund.

All the copies of the "I.S." in hand last week were sold out, and many more could have been disposed of.

J.M., Press Corr.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Another record meeting was held in Liverpool street on Sunday, September 2nd. A large and interested crowd listened to the message as delivered by Comrades Gay and Reardon. Comrade Gus Slade occupied the chair. Com. Slade has been away for some considerable time, but now he has shown himself amongst us again, we intend to force him into active service once more.

It is very encouraging to record the fact that paper sales are still steadily increasing. The Sunday sales coming near 40 doz.

When one realises that they are giving the message of socialism to 480 people by selling papers in one day, it makes one more optimistic about the future. The seed cannot all

be falling on barren ground or stony places. Some of it must bear fruit; and that fact seems to spur one on to greater energies than ever, in the direction of literature and paper sales.

Another fact which is worthy of notice is that many more women than formerly are buying the "I.S." This is especially encouraging to me, at least, because I have always held the opinion that when women begin to wake up, they will play an important part in bringing about the revolution.

Dances and Economic Classes are still held up owing to the strike; but I suppose we will be starting them again shortly.

M. REARDON, Secretary.

KAHIBAK KICKS AT "HONEST ALF."
WYONG'S WARNING TO JUDASES.

A series of meetings of sympathy with the strikers have been held in the electorate misrepresented by the Hon. Alfred Edden. His support of the union smashing Government in nullifying the Coal Mines' Regulation Act and their avowed "starve them into submission" policy is strongly condemned. Wyong warns him to prepare for the wrath to come when he again addresses the electors. On Saturday afternoon and evening meetings were held at Ourimbah and Gosford. Messrs. Young, Noble, and M. Neil, assisted by George Waite, of the United Laborers, explained the situation from the workers' standpoint; and that the magnitude of the strike and the efforts of Anglican and Presbyterian divines and other civic dignitaries to secure a settlement of the struggle without humiliation to either side, disproved the allegations of the strike being engineered by Sinn Feiners, I.W.W.-ites, Papist plotters, and Empire disrupters, as stated by King Billy, of Bendigo and his satellites. Resolutions of sympathy for the workers in their righteous crusade against the card and other sweating systems, and denunciation of Shire Councillors and bush bumbles for aiding and abetting strike-breakers, were carried; copies to be forwarded to the renegade political representative and the "International Socialist," so that Mr. Edden and others like him would have visions of the Nemesis of Democracy on the track of Labor Judases and political grave-diggers at next election.

The Australian
Socialist Party.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICY.

Objective

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution.

Statement of Principles.

The present form of Society rests on private ownership of the land and the machinery (tools) of production.

The owners of most of the land and machinery of production constitute what is economically known as the capitalist class. Hence the use of the term, "The capitalist form of society."

This form of ownership divides society in all countries into two distinct and opposing classes—the capitalist class and the working class.

The working class produces all the wealth of society, whilst it only receives sufficient to enable it to carry on production (i.e. a living wage). The rest of the wealth is appropriated by the capitalist class, and is known as surplus value.

Thus a conflict of interests is set up over the division of this wealth, each class striving to obtain possession of a greater portion. This conflict of interests begets a never-ceasing struggle known as the class war, some section or other of the working class being ever engaged in actual conflict.

Political Action and the State.

The struggle forces the workers to organise on the industrial field. But this organisation inevitably produces political consequences.

The State, that combination of legal, judicial and coercive forces, which is directed by parliament (the executive of the capitalist system), is the weapon with which the capitalist class defeats the workers on the industrial field. Finding themselves in conflict with the State, the workers are forced to find political expression for their economic organisations.

Inasmuch as industrial action produces its political reflex, the A.S.P. recognises the use of revolutionary political action on the above basis, as distinct from the palliative-mongering parliamentarism of non-revolutionary parties, to be essential to the complete overthrow of the capitalist system.

Political action then is only of value to the working-class, so far as it truly reflects its organised industrial power.

As to Unionism.

The A.S.P. aims and declares for Industrial Unionism as against craft or sectional unionism, for whereas the specialisation of the processes of production, the invention of machinery, and the concentration of ownership into fewer and fewer hands, makes craft unionism unable to cope with this economic development, and ever growing power of the emasculation in the evolution of capitalist production, i.e., the organised labor expressions of lower forms of tools, the A.S.P. therefore declares that to-day this organisation has outlived its usefulness, and has created crafts and sections amongst the working class in the same in-

dustrial, and this contradiction in industrial development allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set in the same industry, and industry against industry, thereby defeating one another when waging war against the encroachments of the capitalist class, with their superior and higher developed organisations. And in view of this economic development the working class must organise in such a manner as will correspond to the development of the tools of production.

The A.S.P. therefore affirms that industrial unionism in contradistinction to craft unionism is that form of organisation which is based upon the recognition of the class struggle, and through which all its members in one industry or in all industries, if necessary, can act as a unit on the industrial field.

The A.S.P. therefore endorses the 1916 preamble of the W.I.L.U.

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS

Whoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.

All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

47 Victoria St., Melbourne.

Library and Reading Room for members. Lectures held every Sunday Evening.

Economic Class every Wednesday evening. Visitors welcomed.

MT. LARCOM.

Secretary, Chas. Jacobsen, Mt. Larcom, via Gladston.

NEWTOWN BRANCH.

Hall: Hatte's Arcade, King St., Newtown.

Library for Members.

Business meeting held alternate Thursday evening.

Propaganda meetings held every Saturday and Sunday Evenings, at Newtown Bridge.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Hall: 369 Pitt St., City.

Library for members.

Lecture every Sunday evening.

Debating class held every Monday evening.

Business meeting every alternate Thursday evening.

Dance every Friday evening.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY
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IMPORTANT.

When ordering literature it is well to add the cost of registration (3d.). This is necessary to guarantee delivery.

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